Development of forest villages

*530. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a need to provide basic facilities and services for improved livelihood to the people living in forest villages, if so, the position, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any financial allocation for the development of forest villages; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Acknowledging the need for the development of forest villages, which are reported to be about 2,690 in 13 States, Government of India has allocated Rs. 450 crore during the 10th Plan period as a one-time measure to provide basic minimum facilities and services like safe drinking water, healthcare, primary education, approach roads and other infrastructure facilities in forest villages.

During 2005-06, projects for 1,832 forest villages of 8 States have been approved at a cost of Rs. 268.16 crore and a sum of Rs. 191.81 crore has been released to respective State Governments as per following details:

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total number of forest villages	No.of forest villages for which projects have been approved	Total cost of the project approved	Fund released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	499	373	44.25	40.59
2.	Chhattisgarh	421	343	56.05	43.59
3.	Gujarat	194	199	26.42	19.79
4.	Jharkhand	24	21	2.59	1.30

1 2	3	4	5	6
5. Madhya Pradesh	925	679	103.86	61.91
6. Mizoram	85	27	4.05	2.03
7. Orissa	20	20	2.91	1.57
8. West Bengal	170	170	28.03	21.04
9. Maharashtra	73	-	-	-
10. Meghalaya	22	-	-	-
11. Tripura	96	-	-	-
12. Uttaranchal	142	-	-	-
13. Uttar Pradesh	19	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,690	1,832	268.16	191.81

During 2006-07, provision of Rs. 220 crore has been made in the budget of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the development of forest villages under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP). The proposals from Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh are yet to be received, whereas proposals from Tripura and for some more forest villages of Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram have been received, which are processed for sanction as per laid down procedure.

Reservation of Minorities

*531. SHRI MANOHAR GAJANAN JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are proposing any legislation regarding minorities reservation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A. A. FATMI) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.